

## Broadcasters voice views about media at CJRY's On Air '86

By PAULETTE PEIROL

The first-hand insight of CTV anchorman Lloyd Robertson and other media luminaries made Radio York's "On Air '86" conference last Saturday more immediate and arresting than any text could offer.

Panel speakers included Suanne Kelman (producer on CBC's *The Journal*), David Schatzky (CBC Radio), and Jerry Howarth (announcer for the Toronto Blue Jays radio broadcast). The most popular topics of the conference were "Women and Broadcasting," "Careers," and two separate seminars on "Presentation and Pinpointing the Story."

Considering that over 250 students are registered in York's Mass Communications program, it was disappointing that only about 100 people attended "On Air '86," according to co-chairpersons David Ackerman and Deena Linsky.

Radio York organizers were expecting "at least 250 people," at the event, said Linsky. "On Air '86" was the second radio and television broadcasting conference sponsored by Radio York, which was aiming to raise funds for renovations and equipment to facilitate their expected FM license.

The first (of two) "Pinpointing the Story" seminar, attended by over 40 people, included Robertson, who was recently acclaimed "the most trustworthy TV journalist" in Canada; Stuart McLean, director of Broadcast Journalism at Ryerson; and Ed Needham, talk-show host on CFRB radio. The three panelists initiated a lively discussion which stretched from such topics as voice training to emotional announcers.

Both Robertson and McLean concurred that broadcasting is an intimate medium—"Imagine watching your own TV; you want someone talking to you," Robertson said. Needham took a more critical stance, making strong statements such as "teleprompters are an attempt to deceive," and "every single 'J' (journalism) school which doesn't teach acting is cheating its students."

The topic of announcer-as-actor was debated at length. Robertson stressed "you're not acting in news; you're yourself, and must gather your best editorial elements and presentation skills."

McLean said, "It's more important to learn political science, English, and history, rather than production, which can change." This was surprising, considering that Ryerson is noted, more than other journalism schools, for its "hands-on" method of teaching broadcasting. Robertson agreed with McLean, and said "we can't let technology lead us; we must lead technology."

Voice training was another controversial topic. "It's hard to convince 'J' students that your voice is an instrument," Needham said, "students should practice reading for one hour per day, and tape themselves once a week—but they refuse to do this."

Robertson noted that "voice and technique is important," and that "speaking needs training." He later added, "in writing the story, you need key words to lock the viewer into it."

All panelists agreed that broad-

casting should contain more commentary and analysis, but that this is difficult, given the nature of the media. "There should be more comment in our democratic society," Robertson said, "but we cannot sacrifice news value and content to make the story interesting."

Journalistic integrity was also an issue in "Communications and the Law: The Question of Liability." This seminar, conducted by CBC lawyer Danny Henry, was sparsely attended, but highly informative. Neither journalism nor law schools teach enough about defamation, according to Henry. Since the Charter of Rights was brought back to Canada, "all cases are open for review," Henry said.

Henry outlined the four defenses available to media when charged with libel: an apology; qualified privilege; fair comment; and prior consent. He stressed that "the courts differentiate greatly between broadcast journalism and print." For example, courtroom proceedings cannot be broadcast, and taped telephone conversations cannot be used for broadcast without prior consent (they can, however, be printed without consent).

The question which Canadian courts are now faced with, according to Henry, is "should the individual's right to privacy override the public's right to know?" Henry noted that American law regarding libel is much more in favour of the media; in the U.S. plaintiffs must prove that a) the statement in question is indeed defamatory, and b) that it was broadcast or published with malicious intent. In Canada, it is the media's responsibility to defend charges laid against them.

If awareness is the key to informative reporting, then perhaps Robertson summarized the broadcasting media best when he said, "there can be no unguarded moments on television."

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**THE FASTEST MAN IN THE WORLD:** Even though Ben Johnson's spectacular track and field career has included beating Carl Lewis, the American media have yet to recognize the immense talents this sprinter possesses. . . . . Page 17



**NOW, LISTEN HERE:** The outspoken Ed Needham, host of the cryptically-titled *Ed Needham Show* on CFRB, drives his point home during Saturday's "On-Air '86" conference, organized by Radio York. Looking on, with intense concentration, is CTV anchorman Lloyd Robertson.

## Guilty verdict for Jews for Jesus director coincides with ex-member's lecture

By KEVIN BRAY

A court ruling Tuesday against the Canadian Director of the Jews for Jesus coincided with a public lecture by Larry Levy condemning the group.

Steve Cohen was found guilty of trespassing on York University property by Judge Thomas Mercer and received three months probation. Cohen was charged April 10 when he disseminated Jews for Jesus literature in Central Square without the University's consent.

Levy, a former Jews for Jesus member, spoke to over 50 people

Tuesday afternoon about his involvement with the group and the reasons he eventually left. The public lecture was sponsored by the Anti-Missionary Committee of the Jewish Student Federation.

Levy began his talk by saying he had "no quarrel with the Christian faith." "You don't have to be Jewish to get to heaven," he said. Levy also stated that he objects to "spiritual imperialism, the deceptive use of Jewish symbols, and the deliberate provocation of the Jewish community," all of which he attributed to Jews for Jesus.

"These groups (like Jews for

Jesus) believe that being Jewish is being incomplete," he said. "God will punish us for remaining Jews. They want to rescue us from this fate."

"Beneath the Jewish facade they reject Judaism and accept only right-wing fundamentalist Christianity," Levy said. "I found a tremendous amount of anti-Semitism. I had problems with the intellectual and emotional constriction."

By using seductive arguments, Jews for Jesus persuades Jews to become Christians and adhere to the New Testament, according to Levy. Employing Jewish symbols, the Hebrew language and Jewish names, the group espouses the unification of Christianity and Judaism. Levy joined the group in Los Angeles, but later found he "couldn't be a Jew and a Christian at the same time, not if I believed in the Jewish bible."

Levy explained that Jews for Jesus is one of many "Christian missionary groups that target Jews for conversion." Funding for organizations like Jews for Jesus comes from right-wing fundamentalist Christian churches, according to Levy, including the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

"These groups are allocating \$100,000 per Jew to convert us," Levy said. Levy indicated that the Catholic and Anglican churches have condemned missionary groups, "but the evangelical Christians have responded more slowly."

Levy recounted his past for the audience, describing what he called a normal Jewish upbringing for a boy in New York. While in university, Levy began to question his background and faith, wondering what it meant to be Jewish. He concluded that it was "quaint ethnic food . . . a childish mixture of bible stories . . . sticking to Jewish girls . . . and an attachment to Israel."

Lonely, vulnerable, and searching for his identity, Levy feels he "was precisely that type of person these missionary groups target."

Levy is now the director of Jews for Judaism in Baltimore, which tries to win back Jews who are members of Hebrew Christian groups, as well as offering Jewish education and identity programmes.

## New coordinator named for Student Security after previous directed demoted

By JAMES FLAGAL

A new co-ordinator for student security was appointed last Thursday following the demotion of the previous director.

Katherine Wells replaced Trish Killin who was demoted to student security officer status by Eric Pond, the Assistant Director of Special Services. After Pond offered Killin the position, Killin submitted a letter of resignation.

According to Pond, during her time as director, Killin did not establish a good rapport with her employees. "I would get almost daily complaints," said Pond, about Killin's rigid hours of availability (between 1-3 p.m.). "It really irked her student employees. She was not prepared to be flexible," Pond added.

Killin was unavailable for comment.

"Things began falling through the cracks," Pond noted, as Killin "would rarely follow up reports." One incident Pond described was the York-Finch Wonderrun fund-raiser which required six student security officers to supervise the road race. By the weekend of the race, only four students had signed up to work and

only one of them showed up to help on race day.

This tied up other security officers with the road race who were previously scheduled to supervise homecoming events the same weekend. Pond expressed his disappointment with Killin, reminding her that it was her responsibility to ensure volunteers were available for the race.

In addition, Pond was disappointed that Killin never notified him that only four students were available for the race before the weekend. Killin also never found out why those three students never showed up for the race, Pond said.

"The straw that broke the camel's back though," according to Pond, was her lack of provision for a replacement during her four day absence from work due to illness. As a result, scheduling, time sheets, and other important paper work was neglected. She only issued a replacement for one day, said Pond, "it was then that I decided to relieve her of her duties and appoint Katherine Wells."

Pond said that Killin was previously working for Crime Prevention, but when this unit closed, Pond

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